

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP01/11385

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int.Cl⁷ A61B8/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Int.Cl⁷ A61B8/00

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Jitsuyo Shinan Koho	1922-1996	Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho	1994-2001
Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho	1971-2001	Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho	1996-2001

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	JP 11-137550 A (Toshiba Corporation), 25 May, 1999 (25.05.1999), column 7, lines 3 to 26 (Family: none)	1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15
Y		3, 8, 11, 16
A		6, 14
Y	JP 8-280674 A (Toshiba Corporation), 29 October, 1996 (29.10.1996), column 4, line 47 to column 5, line 8; column 7, line 42 to column 8, line 27; column 10, line 32 to column 11, line 2 & US 5694937 A	3, 11
Y	JP 11-253449 A (GE Yokogawa Medical Systems, Ltd.), 21 September, 1999 (21.09.1999), column 3, line 32 to column 4, line 3; column 11, line 12 to column 13, line 7; Figs. 8, 13 (Family: none)	8, 16

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

"A"	Special categories of cited documents: document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E"	earlier document but published on or after the international filing date	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L"	document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&"	document member of the same patent family
"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search
05 February, 2002 (05.02.02)Date of mailing of the international search report
19 February, 2002 (19.02.02)Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Japanese Patent Office

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	JP 8-182680 A (Toshiba Corporation), 16 July, 1996 (16.07.1996), column 31, line 29 to column 32, line 17 & DE 19548988 A & US 5724976	1-16
A	Naoyuki KAMIYAMA et al., "Flash Echo Eizou-hou no Kentou (5); negative pressure threshold ni tsuite", Chouonpa Igaku, 15 March, 1997 (15.03.1997), Vol.24, No.3, page 326	1-16
A	JP 10-75951 A (Hewlett-Packard Company), 24 March, 1998 (24.03.1998), Full text; Figs. 1 to 12 & US 5735281 A & DE 19723053 A	1-16